

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 828

By Wirgau

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the personnel and volunteers of Ducks Unlimited in celebrating seventy-five years of habitat improvement and restoration, resulting in tremendous benefits to waterfowl, other wildlife species, and the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited (DU) was created during the Dust Bowl in 1937, when North America's drought-plagued waterfowl populations had plunged to unprecedented lows; and

WHEREAS, determined not to sit idly by as the continent's waterfowl dwindled beyond recovery, a small group of sportsmen joined together to form an organization that became known as Ducks Unlimited; and

WHEREAS, this organization is now the world's largest and most effective private waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization and is able to multilaterally deliver its work through a series of partnerships with private individuals, landowners, scientific communities, government agencies, such as the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and other entities; and

WHEREAS, waterfowl are not the only beneficiaries of DU's habitat work; and

WHEREAS, wetlands improve the overall health of our environment by recharging and purifying groundwater, moderating floods, and reducing soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, wetlands are nature's most productive ecosystems, providing critical habitat to more than 900 wildlife species and invaluable recreation opportunities for people to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the United States alone has lost more than one-half of its original wetlands and continues to lose more than 80,000 acres of the wetlands most important to wildlife each year; and

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization, with its members being conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts who live primarily throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, DU volunteers hosted more than 4,400 grassroots fund-raising events; and

WHEREAS, event dollars represent some of DU's most important sources of revenue, and DU is able to spend these funds in high priority areas and use them to leverage additional funds from other sources; and

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited has either influenced or conserved more than 108 million acres in North America, and partnered directly with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to enhance and restore 46,966 acres and influence an additional 166,550 acres of critical waterfowl breeding grounds; and

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited's mission is to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, these habitats have been critical to restoring waterfowl populations, and they also benefit other wildlife and people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Ducks Unlimited personnel and volunteers for their successful endeavors to improve habitats for waterfowl and other wildlife species in North America, as well as benefitting the continent's citizens, for the past seventy-five years and offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.